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THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

THE NURSING RECORD

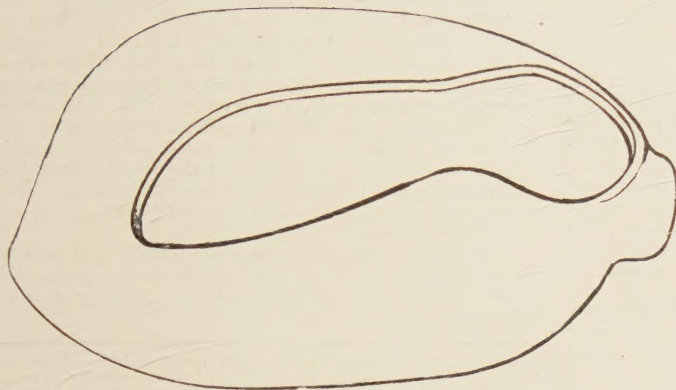
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APRIL 7TH, 1917

WEEKLY TWOPENCE.

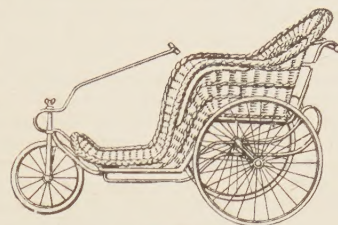
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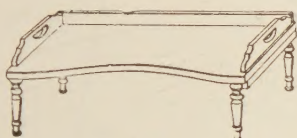
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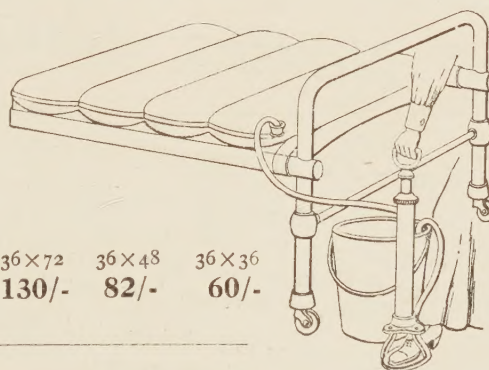
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This striking declaration was the key-note of one of the most interesting lectures of the well-known physician who delivered it.

"Mother's milk," he explained, "contains four times as much of this special milk-albumin as cow's milk." (See the latest analysis published by Prof. G. F. Still, M.D., Professor of Diseases of Children at King's College, London.)

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this precious substance, added to diluted and sweetened cow's milk, makes a mixture practically identical with mother's milk."*

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"If you use it for your little patients it will indirectly benefit you in your professional work, and save you and the mothers you are assisting a world of care and anxiety."

* Every nurse who writes, mentioning this paper, to Genatosan, Ltd. (Chairman: Lady Mackworth), the British Purchasers of the Sanatogen Co., 12, Chancery Street, London, W.C., will be supplied with a free trial supply of Albulactin. This preparation is now sold by all chemists, in bottles, at 1/3, 2/6 and 5/-.

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Advertisements cannot be received later than Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Editorial Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

N.B.—All communications in respect to Advertisements or business matters must be addressed to
The Manager, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.
Phone—1712 Gerrard.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

Applications should be lodged, forthwith, for the next examination of the Board, which will take place at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen (provided a sufficient number of candidates enter at each centre), on Monday, 30th April, 1917. Schedules, &c., may be obtained from Mr. D. L. Eadie, Secretary, 50, George Square, Edinburgh. 180

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES, ETC.

A MATRON is required for Clare Hall Sanatorium, South Mimms, Barnet. Commencing salary £100 per annum, with Board, Lodging, and Laundry, and £5 for Uniform. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in pulmonary and tuberculosis cases. Thorough knowledge of housekeeping essential.

Applications, stating age, experience, and qualifications, with copies of any testimonials, to be sent forthwith to Dr. A. C. TABOIS, Clare Hall Sanatorium, South Mimms, Barnet. 34

BUCKNALL HOSPITAL, STOKE-ON-TRENT.

SISTER REQUIRED Must be a fully-trained Nurse, with a thorough knowledge of Ward Management. Salary £50 and Uniform. Also STAFF NURSES. Salary £32 10s. and Uniform. Apply to MATRON, with references and photos. 35

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACK-POOL. INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

REQUIRED, two WORKING SISTERS or CHARGE NURSES Must have had General and Fever training, and be strict disciplinarians

Salary £36, rising £2 every six months to £45, with material for indoor Uniform.

Apply, stating age, experience, and enclosing copies of three recent testimonials and photograph, to the MATRON. 36

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—continued.

DARLINGTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

NIGHT SISTER REQUIRED. Salary, £45 and Uniform. Apply to MATRON, with copies of three recent testimonials and photograph. 32

GATESHEAD UNION.

WARD SISTERS. INFIRMARY. WANTED at the Union Infirmary, Gateshead-on-Tyne, WARD SISTERS with three years' training and C.M.B. certificate. Salary £40 per annum, together with the usual residential allowances and £2 per annum in lieu of Uniform.

Application forms to be obtained from the MASTER, Guardians' Institution, High Teams, Gateshead-on-Tyne. 37

STEYNING UNION. CHARGE NURSE.

The Guardians of the above-named Union invite applications for the appointment of CHARGE NURSE at their Workhouse Infirmary, Shoreham-by-Sea.

Salary £35 per annum, increasing £2 10s. annually to a maximum of £40 per annum, together with the usual Rations, Residence, and Indoor Uniform.

Candidates must hold a three years' certificate from a recognised Training School, and preference will be given to candidates holding the certificate of the C.M.B.

The person appointed will be required to take Night Sister's duty occasionally.

Applications, in candidates' own handwriting, stating age, previous training and experience and accompanied by copies of three testimonials of recent date, to be received by me, the undersigned, not later than SATURDAY, the 7th April, 1917.

There are no printed forms of application for the appointment.

Candidates whose attendance may be required will be notified thereof, and reasonable travelling expenses will be allowed.

By Order,

ARTHUR FLOWERS,

Clerk to the Guardians.

Union Offices,
Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex. 38
27th March, 1917.

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—continued.

PLYMOUTH INCORPORATION.

CHARGE NURSES WANTED.

CHARGE NURSE for Female Venerea Ward, Plymouth Workhouse Infirmary; also CHARGE NURSE for Lying-in Ward, both Nurses to assist elsewhere as required; and a GENERAL CHARGE NURSE.

Salary for each appointment £40, with War Bonus of £5 per annum, together with Residential allowances.

Candidates must possess a three years' training certificate, and have had experience as Charge Nurses.

The Nurse required for the Lying-in Ward must possess the C.M.B. certificate. Particulars as to duties, &c., may be obtained from the SUPERINTENDENT NURSE at the Infirmary.

Forms of application may be obtained from the undersigned, and should be returned, duly completed, by noon on TUESDAY, 10th April, 1917.

W. H. DAVY,

Clerk to the Guardians.

The Workhouse,
Greenbank Road, Plymouth. 39

TERRITORIAL FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

FIRST SOUTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

STAFF NURSES REQUIRED on Extension of Hospital. Must hold three years' certificate from a recognised Training School. Salary, £40; with Uniform Allowance, Board, &c.

Also ASSISTANT NURSES, who must hold a Certificate of not less than two years' training in a Fever Hospital, or Hospital for Women or Children, or have had two years' experience in a General Hospital. Salary, £30; with Uniform Allowance, Board, &c.

Apply to MISS MUSSON, Principal Matron, T.F.N.S., General Hospital, Birmingham. 28

NOTTS. COUNTY COUNCIL WANTED, for increase of Staff, two STAFF NURSES. Salary, £35 and Uniform. Two PROBATIONERS. Salary, £16 and Uniform.

Apply, with full particulars and photograph, MATRON, Ransom Sanatorium (Open-air), Mansfield 40

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the Editor should be addressed to her at

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Arrangements have been made for the following Examinations to be held in 1917:—**Massage**—London and Manchester, June, Sept., Dec., Dublin, June and Dec. **Swedish Remedial Exercises**—July and Dec. (London). **Medical Electricity**—April, July and Nov. (London). **Teachers' Certificate**—October (London).

A Branch of the Society has been opened in Manchester, where Examinations are already held, and Lectures given.

The Society is approved by the Medical Profession, and its certificate-holders may not undertake cases without the permission of a registered practitioner.

The certificate of the Society is a qualification accepted by the War Office for work amongst the wounded, and over 900 certificate-holders are at present working in Military and Red Cross Hospitals, Convalescent Camps, &c.

For further information apply to the Secretary—

157, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W. Telephone: MAYFAIR 4189.

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—continued.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER UNION INFIRMARY, FULHAM ROAD, S.W. PROBATIONER NURSES.

The Guardians invite applications for appointments as PROBATIONER NURSES.

Candidates must be over 21 and under 27 years of age, well-educated, free from any physical infirmity; and should apply personally to the MATRON at the Infirmary, or write, enclosing stamped addressed envelope, to her for forms of application. Candidates, if approved by the Committee, will be taken on trial for two months, and, if satisfactory, for three years' training.

Salary, £12 during the first year; £18, the second year; and £20 for the third and subsequent years of service; Board, Lodging, Washing and Indoor Uniform. 33

LORD MAYOR TRELOAR HOSPITAL (FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN), ALTON, HANTS.

PROBATIONERS are received at the above Hospital at the age of 18 years. The training is for three years, and is valuable to those intending to become fully-trained nurses, but who are too young for general training.

Candidates must be educated and refined.

Salary, £8, £12, £16; with Board, Lodging, Uniform and Laundry.

Particulars will be sent on application to the MATRON. 161

ROYAL DEVON AND EXETER HOSPITAL, EXETER (200 Beds).

PROBATIONERS are REQUIRED at this Institution. Aged 21–35.

Forms of application and all particulars can be obtained from the MATRON, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter. 41

SALFORD UNION INFIRMARY.

WANTED, WAR PROBATIONERS for period of six months in the first instances with renewal of engagement if both side agree. Previous experience not requisite.

The nurses will be required for service in the Military or Civilian Wards of the Hospital, or in the wards of the temporary Infirmary.

Salary £15 a year with Uniform and residential allowances.

Suitable candidates will be given the opportunity of accepting training in the Infirmary, which is a recognised training school.

Applications at once to the MATRON, Hope, Pendleton, near Manchester.

By Order,

E. H. INCHLEY,

Clerk to the Guardians.

Poor Law Offices,
Eccles New Road,
Salford,

27th March, 1917.

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HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—continued.

BOROUGH OF CHESTERFIELD. HEALTH VISITOR.

The Health Committee REQUIRE a HEALTH VISITOR for Infant Welfare Work.

The duties consist of visiting notified births and attendance at the Baby Clinics. Salary £100 per annum.

Applicants must be fully-trained Nurses, and preference will be given to those holding the C.M.B. certificate and experienced in children's diseases.

Forms of application may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom the application must be forwarded not later than MONDAY, 16th April, 1917.

R. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Office,
Saltergate,
Chesterfield.

179

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

SISTER, for Children's Ward. Three years' General training. £30 and war bonus. MATRON, the General Infirmary, Worcester. 42

SISTER WANTED for night duty. Salary, £35 and Uniform. Apply, with testimonials, to MATRON, Creton Sanatorium, Northampton. 43

WANTED, fully-qualified SISTER, for alternate day and night duty. Salary, £40 and Uniform. Apply, MATRON, Military Home Hospital, Todmorden. 44

NIGHT SISTER WANTED. Commencing salary, £35; Uniform Material. MATRON, Women and Children's Hospital, Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh. 31

WANTED, immediately, a NURSING SISTER to take charge of the Medical Department of a Red Cross Workroom in Mayfair. Good salary. Must be tactful and up-to-date. Apply to Box No. 49, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. 30

SISTER REQUIRED for Medical Ward, fully trained. Salary £32, rising, and 10s. per month war bonus. Apply, with full particulars, to the MATRON, Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury. 27

CHARGE NURSE as Matron's Assistant. Capable, refined, and of sound health. Salary, £45; Uniform Materials. Send particulars and photo., MATRON, Fever Hospital, Great Yarmouth. 45

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.—continued.

TRAINED NURSES, General certificate, WANTED for large National Munition Factory at Coventry. Salary about £100. Special boarding facilities available. Address "MUNITION," Box No. 40, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, W. 1. 29

ASSISTANT NURSE for small Surgical Home, with one year's Hospital experience. Must be domesticated. Apply, MATRON, Private Nursing Home, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough. 185

PROBATIONERS REQUIRED. Strong and well educated. Apply, with photograph and full particulars, MATRON, Isolation Hospital, Menston, near Leeds. 46

PROBATIONERS WANTED for Fever and Sanatorium training. £18, £20, £24. Uniform found. Apply MATRON, Fever Hospital, Halifax. 47

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

DISTRICT NURSING.—Fully-trained NURSES REQUIRED to qualify as Queen's Nurses.

Apply to the GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Applicants are invited to call at the above address on Thursdays, between 2 and 4 p.m. Interviews may be arranged on other days by appointment. 5

MIDDLESBROUGH DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.—REQUIRED three years' trained NURSES. C.M.B. cert. desirable. In and Outdoor Uniform, Board, &c. Salary, £33, rising to £40. Apply to SUPERINTENDENT. 17

RANYARD NURSES.—WANTED, fully trained Hospital NURSES willing to devote themselves to nursing the sick poor in London. Free District Training and Lectures given. Age, 25 to 40. For particulars as to salary, &c., apply: The Secretaries, Ranyard House, 25, Russell Square, W.C. 14

IMPORTANT TO ADVERTISERS.

"The British Journal of Nursing" circulates widely amongst educated women, both lay and professional.

MIDWIFERY.**CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL,**
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Special terms for Trained Nurses and Soldiers' Wives and Widows.

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Women are trained in MIDWIFERY theoretically and practically for the Central Midwives Board's and Medical Examinations. Minimum course, four months (trained nurses); others, six months.

Past students (C.M.B.) eligible for salaried hospital posts affording wide experience.

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3

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8

EXAMINATIONS.**CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Examinations will be held as under:—

LONDON } May 1, 1917
BIRMINGHAM } Aug. 1, 1917
BRISTOL } Nov. 1, 1917

LEEDS } Aug. 1, 1917
LIVERPOOL }
MANCHESTER } May 1, 1917
NEWCASTLE } Nov. 1, 1917
ON-TYNE }

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2

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LIVERPOOL TRAINING SCHOOL OF MASSAGE.—Principals, Misses HUNTER and McCOLL. Students prepared for the examination of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses. Practical experience in Hospital. Apply, Miss McCOLL, 78, Huskisson Street. Tel. 3886 Royal. 42

EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF MASSAGE.

Full instruction given.

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MISS HASTINGS, 20, Dublin Street. 88

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Single Rooms or Cubicles Terms Moderate

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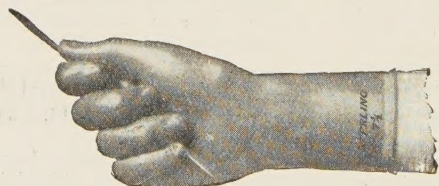
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WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,514.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1917.

Vol. LVIII.

EDITORIAL.

CITIZENSHIP FOR WOMEN.

When our great American colleague, Lavinia Dock—trained nurse, humanitarian, and suffragist was last in this country, having crossed the Atlantic in order to help forward the women's suffrage movement, she expressed the opinion that nurses in the United Kingdom would never get a just Registration Act until an Act for the Enfranchisement of Women was passed. How clear sighted that opinion was we knew at the time, nevertheless registrationists continued to work for the organization of their profession by the State, feeling it was their duty to go forward, though sharing Miss Dock's conviction.

In the convulsion caused by the war, and the setting free of the forces of brutality which have appalled the whole world, one thing has become clear, that the will of the people will be a greater power in the future than ever in the past. The most dramatic instance of this is the revolution in Russia, but the fact that the proposals of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform in this country were so largely unanimous, when dealing with highly contentious questions, including the enfranchisement of women, is amazing, indeed in the course of the debate which took place in the House of Commons on the subject on March 28th, the Prime Minister, when expressing the indebtedness of the House to the Speaker for his services, said that it was "nothing short of a miracle that he should have so piloted the proceedings as to achieve such a measure of unanimity at an inter-party Conference, and, in the judgment of the Government, it would be a great misfortune, and a national waste, if the results of that Conference were thrown away without being utilized for the purpose

of settling all the controversies with which it dealt."

It is evidently the view of the leaders of the Woman's Suffrage Movement that the proposals to incorporate in the Electoral Reform Bill, which is to be introduced after the Easter recess, a provision for the enfranchisement of women, afford an opportunity for securing a measure of women's enfranchisement which should not be lost, for Mrs. Fawcett informed the Prime Minister when he received a deputation of women on the subject, on March 30th, that they preferred an imperfect scheme, which had a chance of passing to the most perfect which had no such chance; and Mrs. Pankhurst pointed out that, to get through, any measure of franchise reform should be more or less upon a basis of general agreement in a time of war. It therefore remains for nurses to use their influence in support of this agreed measure. Out of evil will come good if, as Mr. Lloyd George is absolutely convinced, "one thing that will emerge out of this war will be the conviction that women must be admitted to a complete partnership of the nation."

When this is achieved nurses will have a lever they never before possessed for bringing pressure to bear upon Parliament in regard to nursing legislation, for they will assume the new dignity of constituents of Members of Parliament, and human nature being what it is their interests will receive the consideration which, so far, has been reserved for those who possess the vote. We look forward with hope to increased legislation on questions of health, with, in the forefront of the programme, a Nurses' Registration Act worthy of British Citizens, and not a measure based on their present defenceless position in the body politic.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

HOW WOULD YOU RENDER FIRST AID TO A PATIENT SUFFERING FROM BURNS IN A WORKMAN'S COTTAGE, WHERE FEW REMEDIES WERE AVAILABLE; AND WHAT STEPS WOULD YOU TAKE TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT NURSING OF THE PATIENT?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Mrs. Farthing, Wem Poor Law Institution, Wem, Salop.

PRIZE PAPER.

(a) I should send for medical aid. If the patient were in a very collapsed state I should put the patient to bed in a clean bed, with well-protected hot bottles and warm blankets, and if necessary and the doctor did not arrive, I should administer a little brandy.

I should remember the chief points in rendering first aid were:—(1) Asepsis; (2) expose the burns as little as possible; (3) be extremely gentle in handling the patient: if I had not warm boracic I should use warm saline solution to soak off any particles of adherent clothing; (4) I should take particular care to remove all dirt from the surrounding skin, and be very careful to bandage firmly, that the dressings might not slip about and chafe the parts. One drachm of bicarbonate of soda to a pint of water makes a very good first-aid dressing; soak clean sterilized rags in it, and wrap around the burns. It is never wise to use carron oil or flour. If the home is unsuitable to nurse the person in, it would be wise to have him or her removed to an infirmary, where there would be a proper chance to carry out the doctor's orders. If a district nurse can be obtained to go in and out to carry out doctor's orders, then all will probably be well, but the patient will probably stand a much better chance if removed to an institution, where he can be well nursed and friends unable to interfere. In the case of a child, a good mother will probably carry out the doctor's orders for her little one's sake to the best of her ability, but skilled care is very necessary in these cases.

Old people and children suffer more severely from burns than patients at other stages of life. There is more danger in extensive superficial burns, especially about the abdomen and chest, than in limited deep ones on the limbs, viz:—If the foot were burnt nearly to the bone it would be less dangerous than a burn which had destroyed the true skin on the abdomen, because the greater the number of nerves the more severe the shock, and the more subsequent risk of sepsis.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss S. F. Rossiter, Miss M. C. Garrett, Miss C. Lilian Everest, Miss E. Dolores Hooker, Miss F. A. Oke, Miss M. Robinson.

Miss C. L. Everest writes:—

If the patient is nursed at home, ask the doctor for the aid of the civic nurse. If the arm is affected, keep it away from the side to prevent deformity. When reaction sets in, attend to all excreting organs. Give easily digested nutritious diet. Treat all complications as they arise, under the doctor's orders.

If the burn is caused by carbolic, mix a small piece of washing soda with a pint of water, and use as a compress until the doctor arrives.

If the burn is caused by electricity, send for a doctor. Drop an iron bar across and cut circuit, taking care it touches the ground. Protect the hands with rubber gloves, stand on a rubber mat, and throw an old mackintosh over the patient; then remove him to a place of safety. Loosen all clothing. Give plenty of fresh air, and perform artificial respiration. Place in the recumbent position. If there are wounds, proceed as for ordinary burns, and deal with shock if present.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What precautions would you take in nursing patients in a ward devoted to the reception of patients suffering from venereal diseases? How may infection spread (1) from one patient to another; (2) to the nurse-in-charge?

FRENCH TREATMENT OF BURNS.

The *Medical Record* has an editorial on the treatment of burns by the method of Dr. Barthe de Sanfort, which has been exciting much comment. A mixture of paraffin and resin, called from its yellow colour, ambrine, is sprayed hot, at a temperature of 158° F., upon the burn. It causes no pain whatever, on the contrary relieves whatever pain is present. After twenty-four hours it is still warmer than the body. The results obtained in rapidity of healing and freedom from scars are very remarkable. Its use is not confined to burns, it is efficacious in frostbite, and is a superior treatment in certain wounds. It is first applied in very small quantities, forming a thin layer; this is covered with cotton and then another layer of ambrine. After twenty-four hours the dressing is easily removed *en masse*. Pus may be found beneath; this with any sloughs is wiped off and the dressing reapplied. In no type of burn is it contraindicated.

CLINICAL ASPECTS OF T.N.T. POISONING.

Comparatively few nurses have had the opportunity of clinical observation of T.N.T. poisoning, owing to the fact that it was comparatively little known until the present time, when the exigencies of war have so largely multiplied the number of people employed in the production of usable explosives.

T.N.T. poisoning is a disease due to the toxic action of trinitrotoluene, a product of coal-tar distillation, to which action the biliary passages seem particularly susceptible.

The poison is absorbed to a marked degree by the skin, and to some extent by the mucous membranes of the nose and mouth; its presence is often detected in the urine in a combined state, and in the faeces it is often present in its original state.

When the skin comes into contact with T.N.T. a yellowish stain is the result, which lasts for some time.

In the early stages of the disease a curious form of change in the nature of the hæmoglobin of the red blood corpuscles is found to take place; unless blood formation can keep pace with the blood destruction which is present in severe cases, the outlook is very gloomy. An equally important and often fatal symptom is toxic jaundice, which is present in all severe cases.

Susceptibility in the case of certain munition workers appears to be the chief predisposing cause. Sex apparently has little import; on the whole, the majority of cases have occurred in persons under twenty years of age.

In fatal cases, a post-mortem examination often reveals complete and extensive destruction of liver tissue, with cloudy swelling and fatty degeneration of the tubules of the kidneys.

The liver, in many cases, is atrophied to about half its normal weight, and ascites is sometimes present.

The clinical symptoms of T.N.T. poisoning include:—

(1) General digestive interference, revealing gastritis, vomiting, constipation (or occasionally diarrhoea), flatulence, and general symptoms of intestinal irritation.

(2) "Toxic jaundice," often showing, in the early stages, signs of gradual absorption, such as extreme pallor, and cyanosis, tenderness and pain about the liver area, some dyspnoea and pyrexia, extreme prostration, and, later, delirium, with lucid intervals, ending in fatal cases in coma.

(3) A form of dermatitis, apparently due to direct irritation of the skin, the degree of susceptibility in this connection varying to a marked extent.

(4) Destructive changes in the blood substance, as already described.

Other symptoms occasionally present are swollen and painful gums, swollen glands of neck, headache, and a fretful irritability.

The treatment resolves itself distinctly into prophylactic and remedial measures.

Of the former, now undertaken by Government and municipal bodies, a great deal might be said. A great deal is being done by the regular inspection of factories, and efforts being made to ensure proper housing and feeding, medical supervision, changing occasionally from direct T.N.T. work, short hours of labour, the cleanliness and general care of the skin, and the regular use of solvents, such as benzol.

Special clothing is provided in many factories, such as overalls, veils, long gloves, and respirators; also mechanical aids to getting rid of fumes and preventing excess of dust.

The "munitions nurse" has a big part to play in prophylactic treatment, in noting the first signs of over-tiredness and failing health, even in small degree; thus, by getting the patient moved early from the seat of danger, she may save the onset of the actual disease.

Where toxic jaundice is absent the outlook is more hopeful. In some cases the patient will respond to treatment almost immediately. The urine should be tested regularly; rest in bed should be secured, a plain, nourishing diet, and a good aperient. An alkaline medicine is usually prescribed as a routine measure to allay the tendency to acid intoxication. For the jaundiced cases, rest in bed, with a light milk diet, given in small quantities, is essential. An alkaline aperient should be given regularly to keep the bowels loose. Citrates and bicarbonates are given somewhat freely; and rectal and intravenous saline infusions are almost always necessary. The skin is very apt to become sore and irritated, and should be sponged frequently. Nourishment must be persevered with, and, in the severe forms, supplemented by rectal feeding; every effort must be made to husband the strength, note and treat symptoms as they arise, and keep the patient comfortable.

The prognosis is always grave, and often disappointing, a short-lived rally occurring in many cases towards the end. A warm, ventilated room, and the general treatment of a condition of nervous shock is usually indicated.

AMY PHIPPS.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

The following Matrons, Sisters and Staff Nurses were decorated with the Royal Red Cross by the King on Saturday last at Buckingham Palace :—

FIRST CLASS.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

Matrons : Myra McCreery and Flora Macpherson.

TERRITORIAL FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

Matrons : Mary Bayldon, Emily Fletcher, Grace Hale, Henrietta Hannath, Christina Millar, Grace

Assistant Matron : Margaret Fishbourne.

Sisters : Florence Blakiston, Edith Bray, Ethel Brooke, Maggie Dalrymple, Agnes Glover, Olive Hart, Grace Head, Clara Highnam, Mabel Hobhouse, Elizabeth Horridge, Margaret Huish, Ellen Mapstone, Alice Noble, Catherine Pierce, Irené Proskauer, Bridget Ryan, Emma St. John, Christina Smith, Rose Taylor.

Staff Nurse : Daisy Groom.

TERRITORIAL FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

Sisters : Janet McDonald, Margaret Wallace.

Staff Nurse : Nellie Johnstone.

CANADIAN ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

Sisters : Eva Bell, Mabel Douglas, and Nelly McCurdy.



Sister Roberts. Staff Sister Aherne. Sister Pearson. Sister A. E. Smith.

GROUP OF SISTERS FROM MILITARY HOSPITALS, NOTTINGHAM.
Decorated by the King with the Royal Red Cross.

Preston, Grace Richardson, Sarah Stevenson, Emma Taylor, Elizabeth Thomson, Florence Tomlin, and Mabel Whiffen.

SECOND CLASS.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

Matrons : Mary Pedlar, Ida Pooley, Dora Saunder.

Assistant Matrons : Dinah MacGregor and Hilda Parkinson.

Sister : Dorothy Mallet.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.

Matrons : Adelaide Bowman, Jessie Ettles, Esther Hodges, Ethel James, and Mary Kell.

Queen Alexandra received the ladies thus honoured at Marlborough House, much to their gratification.

The charming group of military nurses illustrated on this page was taken after they had been decorated by His Majesty the King with the Royal Red Cross. They are stationed at hospitals in Nottingham, and are, from left to right, Sister Roberts, Staff Sister Aherne, Sister Pearson, and Sister A. E. Smith.

Miss Beatrice Kent has communicated to the Secretary of State for War the deep sense of indignation aroused at the Women's Meeting at the Albert Hall on March 17th, by his omission

to recognise in his speech the fine national services rendered by the professional nurses to the State during the war, especially as the Imperial Nursing Services are under his own Department. This omission was the more marked in contrast with the eulogy bestowed on the amateur V.A.D. workers.

THE OFFENDING CLAUSE.

We have received several letters on the "Offending Clause" in the Agreement with the War Office, which trained nurses on the Reserve are compelled to sign before they are eligible for the £20 extra pay, and we note that one London paper has had the temerity to quote it and our remarks—that the whole pack did not at once expose its drastic and dangerous provisions, and demand its rescission, proves how deeply seated is the boycott of nursing interests, from which our profession has for years suffered in its relation to the London daily press—and what a mockery it is to speak about a free press in this country. Apparently it is free only in the pursuit of its own commercial interest.

A Matron of a military hospital writes:—"I am thankful you have published the 'Offending Clause,' in the Army Nurses' Agreement with the War Office—and hope some good may result from this publicity. I am losing several of my very best nurses, who absolutely decline to sign it, and expose themselves to the chance of professional ruin at the will and pleasure of one person's opinion. It is a monstrous demand, and I cannot blame those who refuse to sign it."

A Sister writes:—"I signed the Agreement containing the 'Offending Clause,' greatly against the grain; it is only fit for slaves—but it was a choice between signing or resigning, and I could not leave these sick and wounded men, whatever happened. It is most cruel that trained nurses should have to violate their sense of self-respect or neglect their national duty."

A Staff Nurse writes:—"I could not bring myself to subscribe to the 'Offending Clause,' but as we are so short-handed, I am still here, at the old rate of pay. Who is responsible for it? Surely not Queen Alexandra. But as she is the Head of the Imperial Military Nursing Services, she is being blamed for it. Our Matron says we are under military law, and it is very undisciplined to object to conform to it. But why should military law be unjust? I thought we were all fighting for freedom. Evidently freedom unlike charity, does not begin at home!"

A war probationer writes:—"The publication of the 'Offending Clause' caused quite a little stir in this hospital. It does not affect me, but if it did, why grumble and do nothing? Why not get at people in power and have it deleted from the Agreement—that seems the simplest way. Royalties cannot afford to be unpopular, M.P.'s love asking questions in the House, the Lords are nothing if not paternal, and Her Majesty Queen Alexandra might very well require to know from her representatives on the Nursing Board, why it

is necessary to treat her Nursing Reserve Sisters with such severity. Are their qualifications professional and personal not carefully sifted before they are appointed? Why, therefore, surmise that they are going to 'misconduct' themselves after appointment? Anyway, despotic conditions never really effect good discipline; and the 'Offending Clause' is a standing slur on the method of maintaining it in the Army Nursing Service."

We also received the following letter from an East End military hospital: "If you had been behind the scenes here for the last few months, you would not wonder that strong measures are considered necessary at Head quarters. A few weeks ago things had come to such a pitch that the Matron-in-Chief and a very big 'brass hat' had to come down and read the Riot Act—and the half was not told to them!"

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

Miss Catherine Elizabeth Grice, Sister at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Dunkirk, was on Saturday, March 17th, decorated with the Croix de Guerre by General Nollett, Commandant of the 36th Army Corps. On March 9th, Sister Grice while on duty in her ward was attacked by a patient and received serious injuries from which we are glad to say she is making excellent recovery.

As reported in the Daily Press, a fire occurred at Clevedon Red Cross Hospital, Somerset, on March 24th. The Matron in her report to Headquarters says, "Sister Gladys Westrope was on night duty, and it gives me great pleasure to inform you of the courage and coolness she displayed. Nothing could exceed the promptitude and ability she exhibited in a most difficult situation. Alone she carried a helpless patient to safety, and did everything possible to help." It is understood that the Matron, Miss Waddell, and her whole staff acted in a most exemplary and heroic manner on this occasion.

ABROAD.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty abroad:—

Boulogne—Head Quarters.—Miss B. A. Conway (Friends' Ambulance, Dunkerque).

Miss Mabel A. Fell (Liverpool Merchants' Hospital).

Miss Amy M. Leslie.

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

OFFICERS CASUALTIES.

The following casualties in the Nursing Service are reported:—

MISSING, BELIEVED DROWNED.

Phillips, Staff Nurse J. J., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

DIED.

Blencowe, Sister M. E., T. F. Nursing Service.

A LAST MESSAGE FROM EDITH CAVELL.

The following "Message," written the night before her execution by Edith Cavell, was addressed to her Belgian nurses. It was translated from the French and sent by Miss Van der Hoek, a Dutch nurse, who had been one of her pupils, and printed in the *Alumnæ News*, the organ of the New York Hospital Nurses' Association, and reaches the European nursing world as a reprint in the *American Journal of Nursing* by special request.

MY DEAR NURSES: I am writing to you in this sad hour to bid you farewell. You remember that the 17th of September brought to an end my eight years as directress of the Training School. I have been extremely happy to be called to aid in the direction of the work which our committee has founded. On October 1st, 1907, there were only four young pupils. You are now already quite numerous, I believe fifty including those who graduated. I have told you on different occasions about the difficulties attending our start, even in such details as the choice of words to communicate the hours of service, off duty, &c. All these conditions were new to the profession in Belgium. Little by little one service after another was established; graduate nurses to do private nursing, pupil nurses were assigned to the Hospital of St. Giles, also the Institute of Dr. Depage, the Institute of Beysinghen, the Clinic of Dr. Mayer, and at present, many are being called, as you all will likely be later, to take care of the brave soldiers wounded in the war. During the past year our work has diminished, owing to the sad experience we are having, but in happier days to come our duties will increase with new vigour, and with beneficial results.

If I speak concerning the past it is because it is sometimes wise to look behind on the road we have travelled, and to take account of our errors as well as our progress. In your beautiful Institute you will have a greater number of patients and also all you will need both for their comfort and your own. To my great regret, I have not always had an opportunity to confer with you in person. You know what a burden I carry.

I hope you will never forget our evening talks. I told you that your devotion would bring true happiness, and that the thought that you have done your duty before God and your own conscience will be your greatest support in the trying periods of life, and in the face of death.

Two or three of you will remember our little intimate talks. Do not forget them. Having arrived at mature age, I have perhaps been able to see more clearly than you, and point out the straight path.

One word more. Beware of uncharitable speech. Can I say—loving your country as I do—that it is your greatest weakness? I have seen many

unfortunate occurrences in these years that might have been avoided or lessened if certain little insinuations had not been expressed, oftentimes doubtless without any evil intention, but resulting in ruined reputation, happiness, perhaps even the life of some one. My nurses should remember this fact, and try to cultivate loyalty and esprit de corps.

Should any of you have a grievance against me, I pray for your pardon. I may sometimes have been too severe, but never voluntarily unjust, and I have loved you all, much more than you realise.

My good wishes for the happiness of all my young girls, those who have graduated as well as those who are still in the Institution, and thank you for all the kindness you have always shown me.

Your devoted Directress,

E. CAVELL.

October 11th, 1915.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The King and Queen spent Friday afternoon in last week in visiting the wards of the Bethnal Green Military Hospital and talking with the patients under treatment there. The visit was quite informal, and was not generally expected, but by the time Their Majesties left a crowd had collected near the exit, and the King and Queen were cheered as they took their departure. The Royal visitors spoke approvingly of the general arrangements of the hospital, which have been very well organised and where the result of good discipline is apparent. The patients, on their part, greatly appreciated the visit, and the many evidences connected with it of the kindness and sympathy of Their Majesties.

Friday, April 13th, is to be Mesopotamia Day. On that day collections will be made throughout London in aid of the fund for supplying comforts to the British troops with the victorious army of the Tigris and Baghdad. Several emblems appropriate to the occasion will be sold in the streets. The badges given to donors will include myrtle leaves, emblematic of Baghdad, medallions in metal, brooches with Arab designs, and a small badge in colours, depicting an oasis in the desert. At present the chief need of the organiser, Miss Stella Maude, is a large number of sellers for these things; 5,000 are wanted, and they should enrol at once at 26, Regent Street, for selling emblems on Mesopotamia Day. The discomforts cheerfully endured by the troops must be experienced to be realised and everything which adds to their well-being should be forthcoming in abundance. Patent trousers buttons, body belts, braces, boot-laces, and socks and shirts can all be set down as the most absolute necessities. In the food section there are such things as cocoa, coffee, meat extract, sauce, tinned bacon, ham and tongues, sweets, condensed milk, cakes and chocolates.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

The motto of the Corps since its inception has been "Service," and only those like ourselves who have been in close touch with the Sisters and their work can realise how devotedly the majority of the Sisters have lived up to it. They have realised that individual effort has "made the Corps." Everyone seems to rejoice in the well-merited praise of a colleague as the following "quotes" from a letter received will prove.

"I should like to take this opportunity to say how very glad I am to see such a warm appreciation of Miss Nairne's work at Talence.

"I had the honour and pleasure of working there for some months—those before and covering the change from an English staff to a French one. I hardly think that anyone who had not been there could realise how much her personality counted in the smooth working of the change.



A FRENCH CEMETERY.

Young as she is, compared with many of us in her nursing life (having only just finished training before the war, I believe) she has taken a grasp of things in the manner of a much more experienced woman. I was allowed to be present at some of her first lectures to the French ladies and there was just the right touch of lightness mixed with the serious work to keep them on the *qui vive* the whole time. They have more than mere respect for her. I really think they love her. She is known among them as 'La petite Directrice.' As for those who came for the short courses of lectures—they all wanted to get transferred to Talence! Some I know went so far as to ask to be, but the staff being nearly complete, such moves were not possible.

"She gets up concerts and gives them parties in the evenings, when they dance, sing and recite, and altogether looks after them like a mother. They

have a choir of nurses and she was asked to be present at the practices because her mere presence made everyone do her best. As it is a voluntary choir I think it was one of the biggest compliments they could pay her. At one time she was the only person on the nursing staff—French or English—who could play 'La Marseillaise' correctly from beginning to end, so at the end of the parties she would sit down at the piano and play it and also of course 'God Save the King.' Everyone stood round her and sang.

"I could tell you many things of the life she leads and the *bon exemple* she sets from 6 a.m. till after midnight in the service of the 'Entente Cordiale.'"

Two Sisters have enjoyed the great privilege by special permission of the General Commandant to visit Reims. One writes: "It was all most interesting though words

cannot describe the sadness we felt in seeing the terrible destruction of the beautiful cathedral and surroundings—and we realised more than ever how pathetically the French have suffered—and with what dignity they have borne their suffering."

A little town in a beautiful valley near Verdun, as yet unspoiled by the ravages of war; on one of the green slopes of the hills, in a sweet secluded spot, a little cemetery of the usual French type, with its central avenue and its some-

what highly decorated graves. Here, close under the shelter of the wall, is a corner, beautifully kept, dedicated to those heroes of Verdun, who have given their lives for their country. Very pathetic is the sight of those graves, each bearing the French colours and a French beaded wreath or cross, placed there by their fellow-wounded and inscribed "A Notre Comrade."

Here lie side by side men of all grades and religions: the priest-soldier, the Paris clerk, the Breton, the Norman, the Zouave. About the centre may be seen a grave dug at an angle—the grave of the Mahomedan, who must lie with his face to the east.

To this spot on All Souls' Day, a procession wends its way to make intercession with the God of truth and justice, for the souls of those who have laid down their lives for the great cause.

SACRED PLACES.

The graves of the dead are sacred places to all civilised people, and in France especially the greatest care is taken of the graveyards. Our illustration, on page 239, shows one of these at Bar-le-Duc, a place which must bring peace and consolation to those whose dead rest there.

In striking contrast to the reverence of the French is the revolting news that the enemy has desecrated graveyards, and broken open the coffins of the dead for the sake of their metal fittings, and sometimes, apparently, from sheer brutality. Thus Mr. Philip Gibbs, the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, writing from the British Head Quarters in France describes the cemetery of a little church in the grounds of a chateau, full of vaults and tombs where lay the dust of French citizens, men, women and children who died before the horror of this year.

"The vaults had been opened with pickaxes. The tombstones were split across, and graves exposed. Into these little houses of the dead—a young girl had lain in one of them—rubbish had been flung. From one vault the coffin had been taken away. . . . I write the things I have seen not to rouse passion or to inflame hatred. There is no need of that, and I prefer to think that it is the dirty work of a few men rather than the expression of a racial instinct of brutality. But one's gorge rises at it, and at the foul spirit of war which is spread here like slime over a fair country side. . . ."

The picture of the canal at Bar-le-Duc gives a glimpse of a peaceful countryside, such as is ruthlessly laid waste and devastated by the Germans as they retreat.

Miss Stevenson, who is well known in Derbyshire, as lady superintendent of the County Nursing Association, was one of the nursing staff on board the hospital ship, "*Asturias*," when the vessel was torpedoed, and she had a narrow escape of losing her life. The boat in which she and others attempted to get away was several times capsized. Thrown into the water, Miss Stevenson lost consciousness, but fortunately was picked up by a patrol boat. She is now in hospital, and is making satisfactory progress.

RECUPERATIVE HOSTELS FOR SAILORS AND SOLDIERS INVALIDED FROM H.M.S. WITH NERVE-STRAIN.

MEETING HELD AT SOUTHWARK TOWN HALL.

By the courtesy of the Mayor, who presided, the above meeting was held on Thursday, March 29th.

"We are met together to discuss a matter of great importance, one which should have public support and sympathy," said the Chairman in opening the meeting to an interested audience.

In a recent issue of this Journal we have briefly described the aims, objects and salient points of this organization, which is a much-needed scheme for helping that section of war victims that has



THE CANAL, BAR-LE-DUC.

perhaps the greatest claim to our sympathies. Unfortunately, several of the most prominent persons interested in the scheme were unable, from various unavoidable causes, to attend. Among them the Mayor announced the names of Sir Frederick Milner, Bart., Chairman of the Committee, who had broken down (we hope only temporarily) from overwork. In his letter of regret he stated that "it was perfectly monstrous that they (the nerve-shattered men) should be sent to asylums, where they go from bad to worse."

Lady Falle, wife of Sir Bertram Falle, Bart., M.P., was the first speaker. She spoke with great earnestness and sympathy, having had personal experience of these poor sufferers, many of whom she had seen in Portsmouth, her husband's constituency; they had drifted back to their homes, where none of the treatment and care so

essential to them was available. Her remark that she would like to see more of these Hostels and less Government Offices established, met with applause; she could not easily forget the look in the eyes of those men, it showed the border line between sanity and insanity. "Is it possible to do too much, is it possible to do *enough* for our afflicted brothers?" concluded the speaker.

Dr. Waite, M.A., M.R.C.P., Hon. Secretary, in giving a brief sketch of the scheme, laid stress upon the fact that up to the present time nothing had been done for the men and N.C.O.'s of H.M. Services. (N.B.—Lord Knutsford's scheme benefits officers only.)

In this connection, and in order to increase popular interest in the scheme, Dr. Waite reminded the audience that, in July, 1914, a scheme was promoted by a few influential people, which had for its object the early treatment of mental cases with a view to the *prevention* of insanity. For this purpose a deputation waited on Mr. Herbert Samuel, then President of the Local Government Board, who laid their plan before him. We quote the exact words of Sir John Jardine, M.P., who introduced the deputation, as they bear significantly on the present scheme: "We, the undersigned, desire to advocate the provision of greater facilities for the treatment of *incipient mental cases without certification*. The strong popular prejudice, the loss of liberty, and the atmosphere of certified asylums combine to deter patients and their friends from seeking *early* and efficient treatment. We consequently recommend that certification should be restricted to those cases in which, from the serious nature of the malady, it has become necessary; and that incipient cases should have more opportunity of temporary *preventive* treatment in "reception homes," observation wards of Poor Law Infirmarys, or the wards of general or special hospitals." The italics are ours. This recommendation, Dr. Waite explained, had been endorsed by 300 Members of Parliament, 236 members of the medical profession, besides 45 members of the municipality of Birmingham. The war put a stop to further progress of the scheme, but the war has also emphasised the urgent need for it. The Recuperative Hostels scheme has given a fresh turn to the situation, and is to some extent the practical response worked out by circumstances.

Dr. Waite explained that at the present moment we had arrived at this point: The first Hostel at Hampstead with accommodation for about 50 men, including also members of the Mercantile Marine, is almost ready for occupation. This will be the "Clearing-House." The speaker laid special stress upon the fact that *excellent food* will be an important part of the treatment. From this Hostel the patients, when sufficiently recovered, will be sent to "Marshall's Park," at Romford, 12 miles from London, most generously offered rent free for 3 years by Mrs. McIntosh, the owner. This is Hostel No. II. This estate provides facilities for dairy farming. There are 45 acres of ground, 16 cows, hay crop, piggeries, &c., &c.

Hostel No. III will afford accommodation for 100 men, and facilities for farming in general, on 300 acres of land. Other interesting speakers were Dr. Susan White, specialist in nerve cases, and who has taken a prominent part in the proposed reform alluded to; Major-General Sir Ivor Herbert, Bart., M.P., C.M.G.; Major-General Sir Reginald Talbot, K.C.B.; and Dr. Mackintosh, Chairman of the House Committee. One of the principal features of the "Clearing-House" at Hampstead will be a room specially equipped with the most modern appliances for the treatment of massage, electricity, and so forth. Many eminent men have kindly promised to give their services, and form the medical staff of the "Clearing-House."

The meeting terminated with a very cordial vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

B. K.

THE SECRET AGREEMENT.

AN AMAZING CORRESPONDENCE.

The members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, will, we feel sure, realise when they read the following correspondence, how deeply indebted they are to Miss H. Hawkins for inviting publicity on the "private agreement," alluded to by Mr. Herbert Paterson, the Med. Hon. Secretary at the Special General Meeting, on January 18th last, entered into by him on behalf of the Association (instructed by the President, Princess Christian), with Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, Hon. Officers of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

Although refusing information as to the nature of the "agreement" to Miss Hawkins, with its usual contempt for the rights of its nurse members the Executive Committee has realised the wisdom of publishing the correspondence before being requested to do so by the Privy Council, which does not permit a Royal Charter to be treated like a "scrap of paper."

The following letters were sent by Mr. Herbert Paterson for publication last week to the *Weekly Irish Times*, to which paper Miss H. Hawkins had sent the correspondence between her and the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing, Ltd.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

SIR,—At the Special General Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, held on January 18th last, I referred to correspondence which had passed between the Hon. Arthur Stanley and myself with regard to certain conditions incidental to the proposed amalgamation of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, Ltd. In certain quarters this correspondence appears to be regarded as a deep laid scheme for depriving the nursing profession of some cherished birthright, and has been referred to as a "secret pact." As a matter of fact, there has been no secrecy at all. At the Special General Meeting I referred to every point in the corres-

pondence except one, which, at the time, escaped my memory. There is nothing to conceal. Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, our President, appreciating the value of Miss Macdonald's work and the feelings entertained towards her by the members of the association, was pleased to instruct the honorary officers to safeguard Miss Macdonald's position. As this could not be accomplished fully in the bye-laws or in the agreement, I was requested by the Executive Committee to see Mr. Stanley and discuss this and other points about which strong representations had been made to the Executive Committee by many of our members. I embodied in a letter the various conditions discussed; Mr. Stanley concurred with them, and subsequently, in reply to a letter drafted by our solicitor, Mr. Sydney Pitt, the conditions were accepted by the Hon. Arthur Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry. This is the whole story. While the Executive Committee do not recognise the right of any individual member to demand, as a matter of right, as Miss Hawkins has done, a copy of any correspondence passing between them and any other person or persons, such correspondence being obviously confidential, nevertheless the Executive Committee realise that this matter is one of interest to the members of the association, and that its publication will show how little justification there is for the insinuations which have been made, and so have authorised me to publish it, a course to which the Hon. Arthur Stanley has given his consent. I may perhaps be pardoned for stating that not a single member of the association, other than Miss Hawkins, has enquired either verbally or in writing as to this "mysterious pact." No more signal proof could be afforded of the confidence which the members repose in their honorary officers and Executive Committee. I venture to hope, therefore, that you will be able to find space for the correspondence, a copy of which I enclose herewith.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully
HERBERT J. PATERSON,
Medical Hon. Secretary.
R.B.N.A.

London, W.

March 23rd, 1917.

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

Copy.

16, St. Andrew Street, Holborn
Circus, 30th November.

Royal British Nurses' Association and the College
of Nursing, Limited.

DEAR MR. STANLEY,—I understand from Mr. Paterson that you have arranged with him that an undertaking shall be given with regard to the following points: (1) "The Registrar" is to be substituted for "the Secretary" in the draft Bill of the College for the registration of Nurses. (2) The Nursing Society of the Royal British Nurses' Association is to be carried on, and the private staff is to be continued, on at least its present scale, with salaries and emolu-

ments not less than those which they now receive. (3) Miss Rundle is to be the Secretary of the Amalgamated Body. (4) Miss Macdonald is to be the Registrar. While she continues to discharge her present duties she is to receive her present salary and emoluments, but in no event is her salary to be less than that of the Secretary. (5) It is to be understood that one-third of the Members of the first Council elected under the Bye-laws and one-third of the Members of the Amalgamated Body who may represent it on the Council under the proposed Bill for registration of nurses, shall be Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

If you agree to the above, I shall be glad if you will kindly let me have an undertaking signed by yourself and Sir Cooper Perry, that due effect shall be given to them.

I quite understand that you cannot legally bind the new Council, and that your acceptance can only be considered as an honourable undertaking that you will do your utmost to see that effect shall be given to these points, and that it must not be considered as involving any of you in any personal liability.

Believe me, yours truly,
(Signed) SYDNEY PITT.

Copy.

The College of Nursing, Limited, 83, Pall Mall,
London, S.W., 11th December.

Royal British Nurses' Association and the College
of Nursing, Limited.

DEAR MR. PITT,—I have now had an opportunity of discussing the matter with Sir Cooper Perry, and we agree to give the undertaking asked for in your letter of the 30th ultimo, on the understanding contained in the last paragraph of the same letter.

As a proof of our joint acceptance of the above terms I have asked Sir Cooper Perry to sign with me, and his signature is appended.—I am, dear Mr. Pitt, yours faithfully,

(Signed) ARTHUR STANLEY.
" E. COOPER PERRY.

Messrs. Pontifex, Pitt and Co.

A few words of criticism on this most astounding correspondence may be efficacious.

It will be remembered that at the Special General Meeting of the R.B.N.A., held in London on January 18th last, the only business discussed was a Resolution providing for Amalgamation between the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing proposed in a "luscious" speech by the Hon. Medical Secretary, Mr. Herbert Paterson. Neither the Clauses of the proposed Supplemental Charter, nor the proposed Bye-Laws were even read—and, in all the specious platitudes proclaimed by the medical officers from the platform, the practical issue at stake was entirely ignored—the deprivation of the Nursing Profession of its Royal Charter incorporating a Trained Nurses' Association, and substituting for an Association for mutual help and co-operation, an Educational Body, member-

ship of which is open to the laity without any financial responsibility, and which proposes to monopolise disciplinary powers, through legal recognition of its Register, over the whole body of nurses in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, and thus inaugurate a system of economic servitude for trained nurses, throughout the kingdom, with which no class of workers in the community has ever been threatened before.

Mr. Paterson says there is "nothing to conceal." Why therefore was not this correspondence submitted to the Special General Meeting? And why was the letter of Miss H. Hawkins treated with bureaucratic impertinence instead of receiving a straightforward reply?

We are of opinion that the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. voiced by its medical officers, had no right whatever to attempt to extract promises and pledges from Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, whose jurisdiction to govern the nursing profession by divine right is not conceded, thus they have no authority to pledge any Council set up by the Privy Council, or to pledge Parliament as to the constitution of any Statutory Authority it may be pleased to legalise in a Nurses' Registration Bill.

For Mr. Paterson to argue that half-a-dozen autocratic men may agree how the 60,000 practising nurses in this Kingdom are to be governed by them in the future, without their consent, under an Act of Parliament, is an astounding suggestion of feudalistic despotism, that we can well imagine these gentlemen intended to keep secret, and if there is only one woman of spirit left in the R.B.N.A. (as we gather from Mr. Paterson's admission), who, determined not to be controlled like a fool, has secured publicity, let us thank God for her. The letter of Mr. Sydney Pitt, the solicitor, appears to us, as no doubt it did to Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, a very injudicial document. All the parties to the agreement realise that "the new Council" cannot be bound, and what Mr. Paterson calls the "mysterious pact," was blithely signed under these conditions. It remains to be seen how far Parliament will sanction these egregious demands.

The true inwardness of this "mysterious pact" is that in return for security of tenure for the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. and their supporters on the Council of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing, and later on the Governing Body under any Bill for the Registration of Nurses it may promote, the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. have advised the members to sacrifice their *professional* Association and practically hand over their hardly won Royal Charter to the College of Nursing, we presume this is the one point which Mr. Paterson omitted to mention at the meeting, to which he refers in his letter. Four of its Hon. Officers: Dr. Bezly Thorne, Mr. Comyns Berkeley, Mr. Herbert Paterson, and Mrs. Campbell Thomson, have already secured for themselves seats on the first nominated Council of

the feudal phoenix to arise from the ashes of our old liberties.

We commend to the intelligent minority of the nursing profession, the careful consideration of the foregoing correspondence, and invite them to decide whether or no they approve of the methods by which this little oligarchy of men intend to subjugate the whole nursing profession, and break it on the wheel of despotism.

Once more we ask how are the Matrons on the College Council protecting the interests of the rank and file, whom they have excluded from direct representation on that body?

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A LITTLE PAMPHLET FOR BUSY NURSES.

Miss E. L. C. Eden has issued a most valuable little pamphlet on "The National Union of Trained Nurses and the College of Nursing." "I have been asked," she writes, "to explain why the Union criticised the action of the College and opposed some of the clauses of its Bill for State Registration." This she does with admirable lucidity, and she makes it quite clear that the N.U.T.N. did not oppose the College as an educational body, but on the contrary, welcomed it in a perfectly friendly spirit. It was only when the College claimed to promote State recognition and to act as a statutory body, with disciplinary powers, "that our duty to our members compelled us to take action."

Miss Eden gives a brief little survey of the history of Registration, and emphasises the policy of the College in this connection, and asks, "As the College Authorities have so firmly discarded the opinion of the rank and file of nurses and encouraged that of bodies of employers, is it surprising that it should be regarded as a body representing the latter rather than the former?"

Miss Eden firmly demands the right that the Nurses' Societies who have all along promoted registration and the B.M.A. "should have the right accorded them *in the Bill* to appoint representatives on the first Council under the Bill.

The professional right of direct representation is provided under the Medical and Midwives Acts, and the practising nurses will stand or fall by it.

Miss Eden also considers that such vital matters as that a nurse should have been trained in a hospital before she is qualified to go on the Register, and that there shall be one Central examination, require *guaranteeing* in the Bill—as they are in that promoted by the Central Committee—and *neither of which is guaranteed in the Bill promoted by the College of Nursing, Ltd.*

This excellent little pamphlet can be procured from the N.U.T.N., 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1, 1s. a dozen post free. It is concise, and gives busy nurses just the information they require and have time to read.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium, Groesnydd, Conway.—Miss Phoebe Jones has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and in fever training in hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and has held the position of Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and Grove Fever Hospital, Tooting, and at No. 2 Red Cross Hospital, Rouen. Miss P. Jones has been Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Carnarvon, since 1912, her services having been requisitioned in 1915 for work at Netley and Rouen by the British Red Cross Society.

Dalzell Auxiliary Red Cross Hospital, Motherwell Lanarkshire.—Miss Currall has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, and has since done private work in London and Glasgow.

Day Nursery, Small Heath, Birmingham.—Miss Daisy Ansell has been appointed Matron. She was trained for three years at the Wolverhampton Union Infirmary, has done two years' district and maternity nursing at Plaistow, and had experience of infectious work at the Fever Hospital, Coventry. She has also held the position of Sister in the Children's Ward at the Gravesend Hospital, and at the Children's Clinic, Plaistow.

SISTER.

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C.—Miss Irene Haslegrave has been appointed Medical Sister. She was trained for four years at St. George's Hospital, where she has held the positions of obstetrical and theatre Sister, Assistant Night Superintendent, and Sister in the Separation Ward. At present she is in charge of Nerve Cases at the Empire Hospital, Vincent Square, W.C. She is a Certified Midwife.

Miss Denyer-Batey has been appointed Surgical Sister. She was trained at the New Infirmary, Farnham, Surrey, after which she had a year's experience of private nursing. She then had special experience at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, and the Mount Vernon Hospital, Hampstead, and for five years has held the position of Ward Sister at St. Mark's Hospital, City Road.

THE PASSING BELL.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sister Helen Duncan, who for upwards of fifteen years has been a member of the Staff of the Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford St., W. Sister Duncan was trained at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith. For the past five months Sister Duncan has been off duty, invalided, at her home Broadwater, Worthing, where she passed away on March 21st.

NURSING ECHOES.

The next meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland will be held, by invitation of the President, in the Nurses' Home, Charing Cross Hospital, Strand, W.C., on Friday, April 27th, at 4 p.m. There will be tea at 4.45 after the business meeting, and at 5 o'clock Mr. Eustace Miles will give an address on "Health, Economy and Food"—a subject which is sure to interest many Matrons at the present time.

We congratulate quite a number of hospitals which have received splendid legacies recently. Mr. Thomas Hellyar Foord has left magnificent gifts to Rochester. He bequeaths £10,000 to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester—he was the generous donor of £6,000 for the Nurses' Home, which he built and furnished in connection with that ancient foundation.

The Committee of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society has again asked for information from the War Office concerning the questions of pensions and allowances for nurses invalided out of the Army Nursing Reserves. At present apparently all that is secured to them is the 7s. 6d. a week provided through the Approved Society in which they are insured under the Insurance Act. This is a quite inadequate arrangement, and we are glad to learn that the question of nurses' pensions and grants are under consideration. It is a matter which should have been settled at the beginning of the war.

In the revised nursing staff scheme at the Eastern Hospital, Homerton, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, adopted on May 2nd, 1914, provision was made for an additional day's leave each month. It was recognized that this extra leave would necessitate the employment of additional nurses, but owing to the inadequate staff accommodation at the Eastern Hospital, it has not been possible to engage more nurses, and consequently the extra leave has not been granted. The Hospitals Committee has now given approval to the annual leave of the nurses being increased for the remaining period of the war by twelve days, to be taken as and when convenient to the hospital administration. We feel sure this will be a very popular concession, and do much to conserve the strength of the staff.

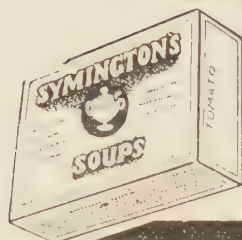
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COUPON, April 7th, 1917.

Name of Competitor

Address

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The dated Coupon for April 7th, published on this page, must be cut out by the Competitor, and enclosed with the article she sends, with her full name and address inserted. The number of words of article to be written on left hand top corner of first page. This answer should be posted not later than April 7th, to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W. 1, marked on the envelope "Prize Competition." The Name of the Winner of the Prize and the Prize Article will appear on April 14th, 1917.

2. The Editor's decision must be accepted by each Competitor as final and unquestionable.

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and homes for nurses know the anxiety which such management has entailed during the last few years. There is the problem to be faced that, while the cost of living has risen from fifty to a hundred per cent, pay remains stationary, and incomes have a tendency to shrink. There is the dearth of domestic labour, and there is the upheaval in the nursing world caused by the fact that so many nurses who ordinarily are engaged in private nursing work are now on war service, and therefore do not as usual use the homes organized for their benefit between cases, whilst others, passing to and fro, often use hostels provided for their benefit at a free, or nominal cost, so that the proprietress of a home finds it very difficult to meet the situation.

One of the Homes which is always popular with nurses is the Kensington Gardens Nurses' Club, 56 and 57, Kensington Gardens Square, W., which is conveniently near Paddington Station and Queen's Road, Bayswater, and the facilities offered by the different routes of tubes, underground, and buses. One of the causes for its popularity is undoubtedly the admirable telephone service. Nothing is more important to a private nurse than that telephone calls should be promptly answered, and messages accurately received and delivered if the nurse is not in the house to receive them herself, and this important point receives the personal attention of the proprietor, Miss Bertha Cave, who is herself an experienced nurse, who has had experience of private nursing, and is therefore well acquainted with the needs of those engaged in this work. The meals are served at small tables, always conducive to sociability, and the "hedge-sparrows," the small maids who have received their name because of the colour of their overalls, wait deftly and courteously. If the residents wish, their meals can be served for a small extra charge in their own rooms when they come in tired, and as gas fires are laid on in most of the bedrooms, this is a real boon. Another attraction of the Club is the electro-telephone, which has been installed on a separate line, so that the telephone service is not disturbed. There is always a very happy and friendly atmosphere in the house, and Miss Cave, who devotes herself to its welfare, is always at hand to deal with the many small items requiring adjustment as they arise.

The last issue of the *South African Nursing Record* reports that "Miss French has been appointed Nurse-Examiner by the Transvaal Medical Council, and will be the Examiner in practical ward work at the forthcoming final

examinations in the Transvaal in April. Miss French was trained at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and stayed on the staff after completion of training, holding many important positions, and was Assistant Matron for some time before she left her training school. She came to South Africa in 1901, and was appointed Matron of Heidelberg Hospital, which post she held till the hospital closed down in 1904. She has been Matron at the Wit Deep Hospital for twelve and a half years, retiring from that position in October, 1916. Miss French is eminently well fitted for the post to which she has been appointed, and of which she is the pioneer in South Africa. The appointment is the result of a resolution passed at the first meeting of the Central Board of the Trained Nurses' Association, which suggested that practical ward work ought to have more consideration in the Final Examination of Nurses. The recommendation was favourably considered by the members of the Transvaal Medical Council, who are ever ready to improve the training and status of nurses by their valuable help and advice; and we hope this innovation, which widens the scope of the Final Examination considerably, will raise the standard and make the training of Transvaal nurses of more value."

LAY CONTROL FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION.

A meeting in support of the College of Nursing, Limited, was held in the Board Room, Birmingham Union, on March 27th, called by Miss Bodley (Selly Oak) for the Poor Law Nurses of the district. Miss Barton, President of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, presided, and Miss Alsop, Hon. Secretary, gave an address in which she warmly advocated the College Scheme as a means to State Registration and better education of trained nurses. Miss Rundle, the Secretary of the College, also spoke of its aims and objects, and although discussion followed and questions were asked, the nurses were not informed that the College was a lay corporation, or that practising nurses, other than matrons, had been refused all direct representation on its Council—and also on the proposed Council to be set up, if amalgamation with the Royal British Nurses' Association takes place, the College had nominated Matrons only. We are of opinion that Birmingham Poor Law Nurses should hear both sides of this professional question before supporting an organisation practically governed by lay Hospital Committees—through their nominees, the Matrons, who, with the best intentions, are not independent, and thus forging a system of economic control for the nursing profession, which deprives it of representative government and freedom of action.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF APPROVED SOCIETIES.

NURSES AND INSURANCE.

J. H. Thomas, Esq., M.P., presided at the Annual Conference of the Association of Approved Societies held at the King's Weigh Hall, London, W., on Saturday last, and in his opening address expressed the conviction that a Health Ministry was a national necessity.

The following resolution, the only one of direct importance to nurses, was passed unanimously:—

WAR SICKNESS RISKS.

"That this Conference protests against any part of the liability for War Risks being placed on the funds of Approved Societies; and claims that Insured Persons, incapacitated whilst serving the Nation, should be compensated from National Funds. This liability was not anticipated or provided for when the financial basis of the National Insurance Scheme was calculated by the Actuaries, and any money taken from the contributions of the Insured Section of the Community to meet this liability is not only unreasonable and unfair, but endangers the stability of National Insurance Funds."

In supporting it, Miss Eden, who represented the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, said:—

"I desire to support the resolution on behalf of the T.W.N.F.S. This matter affects nurses in a special way, because those employed by the Army have been exempted from paying their contributions, although their society remains liable to pay benefits. The Army pays the Society at the rate of 3d. a week, but the insured person herself pays nothing. This arrangement causes a very serious and unfair drain on a society—especially a nurses' society, the members of which, by the nature of their calling, are incurring special war risks. The society which I represent has been remarkably successful in its sickness benefit, showing that a society composed of professional nurses only, if carefully administered, is not subject to the usual financial difficulties of women's societies and such a society deserves every encouragement."

"We claim, Sir, that when the sickness or disablement are caused by services rendered to the Army that the nation should pay, whether it be in the way of Pensions for permanent disablement or for temporary illness."

"Nurses have not been able to go into the trenches and fight—though I am sure they would have done so if called upon—but they have stood by the men who have done so and I am convinced that this meeting will agree that they have a claim on the country."

A resolution was also passed expressing the opinion that the Old Age Pension should be paid to all persons on attaining the age of 70, irrespective of their financial position.

THE VISION SPLENDID.

... "You shall see it ended,
This mighty work to which your souls are set;
If from beyond—then, with the vision splendid,
You shall smile back and never know regret."

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In a Foreword, the author asks: "Is the outcome of this latest world tragedy to be loss or gain? Under God, it rests with ourselves."

"The greatest world tragedy of all ended on the Cross, in what, to the men of those days seemed absolute loss; but that apparent loss has become life's greatest gain."

The loss of the material is of no matter. Our men we know are not lost, except for a brief space to us who are left.

But most of us are conscious of some gain. The heroism of our men has been rivalled by the heroic endurance with which those at home have borne their losses. It is wonderful. Bruised and broken we have felt ourselves as never before in the hands of God. And this is an undoubted good. Amid all the horrors and confusions of these terrible times the soul of life is groping back to the elementals and fundamentals as the only truly staple things left. Much that we held essential has vanished in the fiery furnace—God grant that we come forth from this furnace of affliction freed from our bonds and walking visibly with the Son of God.

"God's Law is Right,—right doing,—Righteousness. Who breaks—pays—we broke,—in permitting amongst us and elsewhere, without protest, that which made for evil. We are paying. It is not punishment, but the simple righteous working of Inviolable Law."

"And now,—having paid in blood and tears and bitterness of woe,—now, with the Spirit of God in us, with enlightened souls and widened hearts, we may look forward to The Vision Splendid of a new-made world."

"Not only *may*—we *must*. Every act is the fruit of a thought. If we do not think good we cannot act good. If we do not think deeply now on that to which we hope to attain, we shall not be ready to act good when the time comes,—the attainment may be delayed and discounted."

"So—to The Vision Splendid of a world in which God and Right shall reign supreme,—may we all live to see it realised."

The Vision of a world redeemed from sin,
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And you have died to crown His Sovereignty.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE INVALUABLE B.J.N.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am home on leave after a year's foreign service, and may I offer my very sincere thanks for the manner in which you have protected our interests during our absence. If it were not for the invaluable B.J.N. we Army nurses would have known nothing of the truth of the struggle which has been raging. I gather from the last reply in the House of Commons from Mr. Hayes Fisher that so long as we registrationists resist the autocratic government by the College of Nursing as proposed in their Bill, which proposes to define standards and make Rules and Regulations without our consent, that it is not probable a Nurses' Registration Bill will go through, and that we are to have an opportunity of presenting our point of view to the Government before any Bill is introduced. That is as it should be, and we know whom we have to thank for these concessions. As we Army nurses are not supposed to express an opinion in the Press,

I am, yours gratefully,

A SISTER T.F.N.S.

THE VOTE COVERS ALL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Please try and stave off registration until we have the Vote—then, let us hope, the rank and file will count, and we can bargain for a just Bill for intelligent women, and not legislation for sheep.

Yours truly,

A SUFFRAGIST.

SHOULD V.A.D. PROBATION COUNT AS TRAINING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am a firm supporter of Registration, but I am also a lover of fair play, and I feel I must write a few words of protest with reference to J. B. N. Patterson's and other letters in previous issues of your Journal. I have been Matron of Military Hospitals both at home and abroad and have at different times been responsible for a considerable number of V.A.D.'s and I claim to know something about them.

I think had your correspondents seen the very excellent work done by these girls in heavy medical wards (enteric and dysentery included) throughout a hot and trying season in Egypt, they would feel with me that it would be very unfair if this work did not count as part of a valuable training. I know well that the majority have had a vastly more varied experience than the average "pro." in a civil hospital, and no girl of ordinary intelligence can have failed to have absorbed a great deal of useful knowledge.

They took their turn of night duty in rotation, with trained nurses at their head, to whom they acted as probationers. Your correspondent would do well to be sure of her ground before stating "They receive no lectures or systematic training," as I can tell her of hospitals where a highly trained Senior Sister is specially selected to lecture to and examine both junior and senior V.A.D. s. I am, of course, alluding to properly organised Military Hospitals, and not to V.A.D. Hospitals.

I am, Dear Madam, yours truly,

FULLY TRAINED NURSE.

WOMEN ON THE LAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Last year you were kind enough to mention our work of putting women on the land in your Journal. We placed many hundreds, and I think it will not surprise you to hear that when engaged in outdoor work, no matter what the weather, they never caught cold; also they soon lost any trouble of nerves, and were so tired and sleepy in the evening that the rather uncomfortable surroundings did not trouble them. We have had many letters from farmers lauding their conscientiousness and grit. Also asking for "more." This year they want twenty, where they tentatively took six last year.

It would be very kind of you if you would mention that we are still working away at this job, that anyone willing to join our parties should write, enclosing stamped addressed envelope to Miss Myers, Organiser, 10, Abbey Road, London, N.W.

Thanking you for your kind help last year.

Faithfully,

C. A. DAWSON SCOTT.

10, Abbey Road, N.W.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

April 14th.—What precautions would you take in nursing patients in a ward devoted to the reception of persons suffering from venereal diseases? How may infection spread (1) from one patient to another, (2) to the nurse-in-charge?

April 21st.—How are wounds infected? How may infection be avoided or minimized?

ORDER "THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

The method known as "on sale or return" is about to be prohibited. This is due to the restrictions on the import of paper, a limitation in its turn imposed by the necessity to set free more shipping tonnage for the import of food. It is necessary, therefore, that all readers of "The British Journal of Nursing" should without delay place orders with their newsagents for the regular supply of the paper, otherwise they will not be able to obtain a copy. Newsagents will provide only for an assured sale. Price, 2d. weekly.

"THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" can be bought direct from the printers, 69, Long Acre, W.C., and, in the West End, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. (first floor).

The Midwife.

A MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

There are indications that the Ministry of Health, so long needed, will soon become a reality. At the Annual Conference at the Central Hall of the Faculty of Insurance, Approved Society officials, and members of Insurance Committees, Mr. Kingsley Wood, a member of the National Insurance Advisory Committee, announced that legislation of a far-reaching character will shortly be introduced, greatly extending the scope of National Insurance, by providing bigger maternity benefits, and additional provision for insurance work. It was Mr. Lloyd George's ideal when he launched the insurance scheme that it should be the foundation of a great Ministry of Public Health unassociated with any department connected with the poor law. Six million pounds has already been paid in maternity benefit, and Mr. Kingsley Wood considers that the Maternity Benefit will have to be raised to £5, and this and other necessary and desirable suggestions have already been placed before the Government.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., in his address as President of the Association of Approved Societies, on March 31st expressed the hope that the Ministry of Health would be a real Ministry, and not a mere appanage of the Local Government Board.

It is suggested that the Local Government Board should be renamed, which, it is believed would coincide with Lord Rhondda's wish that his department should become the great health department of the country.

STERILIZING FACILITIES FOR MIDWIVES.

Miss M. Christoffersen, certified midwife, expresses in *Maternity and Child Welfare* her own wish and that of a great many other district midwives for some arrangement by which they may be able to get things thoroughly sterilized for their professional use. She writes:—"It is evident that no district midwife would ever be able to run to the expense of a high-pressure sterilizer; but it seems to me that the Public Health people would be able to help us over the difficulties, if only someone would take it in hand and make a start.

"On a recent visit to my native country, Denmark, I had the opportunity of seeing how the Danish district midwives are managing. On starting or taking over a district practice the midwife receives from the Public Health Department two good-sized sterilizing drums; she fills them with the things required, and they will then be fetched either on request, or she can arrange that they shall be called for regularly every week or once a month, according to the size of her district; they are then delivered to her within

twenty-four hours. This, of course, is done free

"The particular midwife whom I visited took great advantage of the arrangement. She had any amount done, as, for instance, all the cotton wool she used, pads, cord-dressings, case-bag linings, towels for use in forceps delivery or for use in specially dirty houses, white overalls neatly done up in small jaconet bags so as to keep them in the patients' houses—one separate for each patient—and so on.

"Now, I do not see why we should not be able to have a system worked on the same principles here in England. I feel sure that every district midwife, whose interest it is to keep her work at the highest standard, would be very pleased for the advantage it is to have sterilized material to work with."

The plan seems an admirable one, and we commend it to the notice of Local Supervising Authorities.

THE TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL SEPSIS BY THE CARREL-DAKIN METHOD.

The following interesting communication has been made to the *British Medical Journal* by Dr. John Campbell, F.R.C.S. Eng., Surgeon to the Samaritan Hospital for Women, Belfast; late Surgeon to No. 5 British Red Cross Hospital, B.E.F., France:—

During my period of service in France I was much impressed by the success attained in the treatment of large septic wounds by the Carrel-Dakin method, and it occurred to me that a similar kind of treatment would probably be useful in many cases of puerperal sepsis. A tube or tubes of suitable length could be introduced into the uterine cavity, and once they were in position it would only be necessary for the nurse to undo the clips, and inject an appropriate quantity of Dakin's solution every hour or two hours. The only disturbance of the patient would be that required for the introduction of the tubes. The subsequent treatment could then proceed with the minimum of discomfort to the patient and without any manipulation of the uterus.

I am convinced that in this method we have the possibility of a great advance in the treatment of a condition which has hitherto baffled medical and surgical resources.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

The next examination of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland will, if a sufficient number of candidates enter at each centre, take place at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen, on Monday, April 30th, 1917. Schedules may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. D. L. Eadie, 50, George Square, Edinburgh.

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26th March, 1915.

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Yours faithfully, ANNIE WILLIAMS.

"In all the cases in which I tried it, the women not only expressed themselves as much stronger, but looked much better and gained in weight at the rate of about four to five pounds a week."—DR. FELDMAN, Lecturer in Midwifery and Hygiene for the London County Council.

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